

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EURE-00

SAJ-01 DRC-01 PRS-01 /081 W

----- 057138

O R 271927Z FEB 74 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0722

INFO USMISSION BERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03162

BERLIN FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, US, FR, UK

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM MEETING IN
BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 36933; (B) BONN 2958; (C) BONN 2948

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: IN SEVERAL BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS AND IN FEB. 26-27 BONN GROUP MEETINGS FRG
REPS RESTATED POSITION TAKEN BY BAHR, NAMELY, THAT
FRG WOULD NOT INFORM RENGEL UNILATERALLY THAT

PRESIDIUM MEETING IN BERLIN NOT NOW
POLITICALLY DESIRABLE. AT FEB 27 BONN GROUP
MEETING, TWO ALTERNATIVE TEXTS OF REPLY
FROM CHANCELLOR TO RENGEL WERE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.
TEXT AS GIVEN BELOW IS STRONGLY PREFERRED
BY UK AND FRENCH REPS. THIS TEXT IS ALSO PREFERRED
BY FRG AND WE RECOMMEND ITS APPROVAL BY THE
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DEPARTMENT, IF POSSIBLE BY OOB IN BONN ON 28 FEB.

TEXT B IS VIEWED BY ALL REPS AS POSSIBLE
ALTERNATIVE BUT, FRENCH AND UK REPS PARTICULARLY,
VIEW IT AS MUCH LESS DESIRABLE.
END SUMMARY

1. TEXT A FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 21, 1974.
AS YOU KNOW, SOVIET UNION PROTESTED ON 2 JANUARY
1974

TO THE THREE POWERS ABOUT THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDIUM
WHICH WAS FORESEEN FOR 28 JANUARY 1974 IN BERLIN.
THE THREE POWERS HAVE IN THE MEANTIME MADE THE
ANSWER TO THIS SOVIET DEMARCHE THE SUBJECT OF
EXHAUSTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED. THE SOVIET
PROTEST HAS THEREFORE NOT YET BEEN ANSWERED.

WITH REGARD TO THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
BERLIN SITUATION, THIS QUESTION IS REGARDED ON
THE ALLIED SIDE AS VERY SERIOUS FROM A POLITICAL
POINT OF VIEW, APART FROM THE QUESTION OF LEGAL
CONSISTENCY WITH THE QA. IN THE CURRENT GENERAL
POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC SITUATION, CONSULTATIONS TO
DATE HAVE LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A MEETING
OF THE PRESIDIUM SHOULD NOT BE HELD IN BERLIN AT
THIS TIME.

MOREOVER, AS MINISTER BAHR HAS ALREADY INFORMED
YOU, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CONTINUATION
OF CONSULTATIONS IF YOU COULD PROVIDE MORE DETAILED

INFORMATION ON THE PURPOSE AND AGENDA OF THE MEETING
OF THE PRESIDIUM IN BERLIN.
END TEXT

2. TEXT A IS BASED ON PROPOSAL OF FRG REP
(LUECKING) MADE IN RESPONSE TO DIRECTIVE FROM
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TO PRODUCE DRAFT WHICH
COULD FIND ACCEPTANCE OF THREE ALLIES (LUECKING
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SAID THE CHANCELLOR HAD EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO
RESPOND TO RENGEL TODAY--FEBRUARY 27). BOTH
FRENCH AND UK REPS HAVE GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL
TO THIS TEXT.

3. TEXT B IS MODIFICATION OF PROPOSAL OF US REP
ALONG LINES INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARA 3 REFTEL A,
COMBINING SOME ELEMENTS OF FRG PROPOSAL. BEGIN

TEXT B:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 21, 1974.
AS YOU KNOW, SOVIET UNION PROTESTED ON 2 JANUARY
1974 TO THE THREE POWERS ABOUT THE MEETING OF

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0723

INFO USMISSION BERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03162

THE PRESIDUM WHICH WAS FORESEEN FOR 28 JANUARY
1974 IN BERLIN. THE THREE POWERS HAVE IN THE MEAN-
TIME MADE THE ANSWER TO THIS SOVIET DEMARCHE THE
SUBJECT OF EXHAUSTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED.
THE SOVIET PROTEST HAS THEREFORE NOT YET BEEN
ANSWERED.

WITH REGARD TO THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
BERLIN SITUATION, THIS QUESTION IS REGARDED ON
THE ALLIED SIDE AS VERY SERIOUS FROM A POLITICAL
POINT OF VIEW, APART FROM THE QUESTION OF LEGAL
CONSISTENCY WITH THE QA.

A DEFINITIVE DECISION PURSUANT TO THE QA CAN ONLY
BE TAKEN WHEN THE THREE POWERS HAVE RECEIVED
COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE PURPOSE AND AGENDA
OF THE ENVISAGED MEETING, AND HAVE EXAMINED
THIS INFORMATION. I WOULD LIKE TO TRANSMIT THIS
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REQUEST ONCE MORE AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO YOU IF
IT COULD BE DEALT WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AS LONG AS AN ALLIED DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN,
THE THREE POWERS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD
BE GRATEFUL IF THE PRESIDUM WOULD NOT
SCHEDULE A MEETING IN BERLIN.
END TEXT B

4. COMMENT:
GIVEN THE URGENT NATURE OF THE SITUATION, IN WHICH
NOT ONLY RENGEL BUT THE FOUR VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE
PRESIDIUM (ALL PARTIES IN BUNDESTAG BEING REPRESENTED)
ARE INVOLVED, THE QUICKER A REPLY CAN BE MADE THE
LESS ARE THE CHANCES OF A LEAK. OTHER THREE
GOVERNMENTS REPS HAVE STATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR
TEXT A, THOUGH INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER
TEXT B AS SECOND BEST. GIVEN THE SITUATION, WE
HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN ALSO AGREE WITH TEXT A SO
THAT BRANDT REPLY CAN BE MADE FEBRUARY 28.
HILLENBRAND

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